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SUBJECT: RFG: ALBANIA REQUESTS U.S. CO-SPONSOR DISARMAMENT  
MINISTERIAL

11. (U) This is an action request. See para 2.

12. (SBU) Action request. Foreign Minister/Deputy Prime Minister Ilir Meta met with Ambassador on January 21 to formally request U.S. assistance in organizing and hosting a two-day regional minister-level conference in Tirana on disarmament and demilitarization during the week of March 25. Specifically, Meta requested the Secretary of State's participation in the conference. Barring her personal participation, the GOA would like her involvement in some way, whether it be a video-recorded speech or a letter to be read at the conference. In this instance, they would also request an under-secretary or assistant secretary's attendance at the conference. Meta also requested that U.S. and Albanian Embassies in the region jointly deliver invitations to host government ministers. Post seeks guidance on whether Washington is willing to co-sponsor the conference and at what level, if at all, the Secretary would be willing to participate. End Action Request.

13. (SBU) The Albanian MFA and MOD intend for this to be a two-day, joint foreign and defense ministerial during the week of March 25 to discuss issues of disarmament and demilitarization. The GOA aims to invite defense and foreign ministers from Greece, Italy, Turkey, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Romania, Bulgaria, and Kosovo. The first day of the conference will focus on expert level discussions and include sessions on the impact of disarmament on regional security, the role of international organizations and nongovernmental roles, and national and bilateral efforts at demilitarization and disarmament to date. The second day will be dedicated to statements by respective ministers and the signing of a joint declaration. The GOA hopes to make this conference annual, with the venue rotating between various participating states.

14. (U) For a full draft concept paper and draft agenda, please contact Anthony Baird (bairdaw@state.gov).